

Parish Notices

An attachment has been sent with a list of forthcoming services for May.

Zoom Service kindly offered by St Martins Church - Thursday Morning Holy Worship 10.00am

St Martins Church Zoom Link for Services
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/866070731>

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Will be held on 23rd May, Time, and place TBA.

The draft 2020 accounts for the Parochial Church Council can now be found by clicking on this link

www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk/annual%20parochial%20church%20meetings.htm

The draft accounts and supporting documents are now on their way to our Independent Examiner for presentation at the APCM due in May 2021.

All Saints – Corbel An application has been made to the Commissary General for permission to carry out work to stabilise the Corbels in the Main Nave.

CLICK www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk/faculty%20applications.htm for details.

Easy Fundraising - Dear Everyone,
A huge thank you to all the parishioners who are shopping using the Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile web sites. The Parish is now receiving a very small but regular income stream from these sites. In the words of a well-known supermarket chain 'Every little helps!'

Also, Ecclesiastical Insurance, the company the churches in the Parish are insured with, have a scheme running throughout 2021. For every home insurance policy taken out with them before December they will donate £130 to the Parish. If you are interested, please follow the attached link for more information.

ecclesiastical.com/trust130
or call [0800 7830 130](tel:08007830130) and quote TrustP21

Brian Barnes - Many of you will remember The Late Revd. Brian Barnes. Attached with the notices is a letter from Una Barnes.

The Parish of All Saints
With St Philip, Maidstone and
St Stephen, Tovil
www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk

Sunday 02nd May 2021
The Fifth Sunday of Easter



Joint Parish Eucharist
All Saints Church 10.00am

The Churchwardens and P.C.C. have agreed to future services on a trial basis. There will be Stewarding to ensure Government Guidelines are adhered to.

- **Masks will need to be worn at all times.**
- **Register on entry.**
- **Stewards will direct you on entry and exit.**
- **Due to Covid rules no gatherings will be permitted inside or outside the buildings.**

Next week's Service
10.00am Sunday 09th May
Joint Eucharist Service
at St Philips Church

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading

Acts 8.26- end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury.

He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Gospel

John 15.1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for

you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Post Communion

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Sermon is attached from +Peter

Special prayers for those in need

*Matt 5.3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven'*

Paul Crease, Vera Alflatt, Audrey Little,
Daphne Holland, Nigel Gunyon, Mary Wheeler,
Jane Sadler, Tricia (Barbara's Sister) David
Johnson, Carol Winter, Ray Stephens, Debbie
Proctor

Our Thoughts are with Susie and Roger Manuell

Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion

Rosemary & John Fowler

Departed

Keith Manuell

Our thoughts are with the family of Keith Manuell

***If anyone would like to add anything to the
weekly notices please speak to
mollieneaves@gmail.com***

**Parish Office - 01622 688270
office.allsaintsmaidstone@gmail.com
www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk
www.stphilipschurchmaidstone.co.uk**

**Our Facebook Page:
[Click Here for our Facebook Page](#)**

Church Wardens:

**Denise Joy –
denisejoy@maidstone.gov.uk
Telephone – 07788 634047
Robert Philo –
philorob@uk.ibm.com
Telephone - 07775 813258**

Easter 4

Even if you are not a great football fan, it will not have escaped your notice that the leaders of the so called 'big 6' clubs have been roundly condemned for acting out of self-interest rather than for the wider interests of their fan base. They have not been particularly good shepherds to their flocks!

The background to the gospel reading is the prophet Ezekiel and what he has to say about the religious leaders of Israel whom he called shepherds. Instead of guarding and tending the flock, they have, says the prophet, been content to see the sheep scattered and left to the prey of predators. They have been more concerned to look after their own interests over and above the needs of the people. So, says God, I myself will be their shepherd. Ezekiel's false shepherds are what John refers to as hired hands, the religious leaders, the scribes and Pharisees, of HIS day whom Ezekiel condemns.

You have not strengthened the weak; you have not healed the sick; you have not bound up the injured; you have not brought back the stranger or sought out the lost. You have failed to be good shepherds. The good shepherd is always looking out for his people, taking risks, putting his own life in danger, going the extra mile, concerned for his flock over and above the concerns for himself.

So, if we are to use Jesus the good shepherd as our model, leadership is about courage and integrity. As one writer suggests, 'the courage of Jesus has a quality to it that is both gentle and strong. Above all, it is a courage FOR others, not a courage for his own defence and self esteem. It is in the steadfast love of God as we see it worked out in the life of Jesus that we see the shepherd's courage, not in the strength and power of earthly leaders. I am the good shepherd whom we are called to follow, but we follow not by becoming sheep. We follow by sharing in the task of what it means to be shepherds, by becoming loving leaders, under shepherds, as it were, of the good shepherd, but what might that mean for us.

It would probably be fair to say that there is something of a crisis of trust at the heart of our public life. Nobody pretends that leadership is easy in what are complex issues of security, health and public safety, but all of us would probably expect that one of the marks of those who hold public office should be integrity which sometimes feels lacking. Too often, it seems, similar criticisms are made of the church, namely that what we say and what we do don't always match. The panorama programme this week which highlighted racism in the church illustrates that all too clearly.

To be loving leaders means being true and faithful in what we say and do to the values of the gospel, living a faith marked by integrity and rooted and grounded in God's love, practising what we preach with courage to speak for the needs of the poor and the oppressed and to stand, as many people did in Minneapolis this week, with those who are so often left behind and on the edge. Jesus is, as one writer puts it, an expression of God's heart for humanity. He is the body language of God whose kingdom is for EVERYONE.

Perhaps alongside integrity in leadership, there is also the willingness to allow ourselves to be vulnerable, to acknowledge and rejoice in our frail humanity which is God's gift to us. Society doesn't take kindly to signs of weakness and vulnerability and we are all the poorer for it. We find our strength in choosing to follow the one who allowed himself to be

vulnerable and to suffer on the cross for love's sake. If we are to be truly loving leaders we have to acknowledge our own weakness and vulnerability, for where weakness is freely acknowledged, the power of God's love can enter in. BUT where there is the pretence of invulnerability and the denial of the raw and painful realities of life, we become drained of compassion as do our churches, and what kind of leadership does that offer to a broken and fragile world?

Most loving God, you are the shepherd of God who cares for us with an infinite compassion, seeking to help even the smallest, weakest, and lowliest in your flock. Help us to be loving leaders and grant to us, we pray, the readiness to put ourselves under your direction, that in our weakness we may have your divine support, and in our strength the wisdom to use our power in ways that will not hurt others. So shall we fulfil your purposes declared in the good shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DEANERY PRAYER FOR MAY



Thank you for your continued prayers for the churches and people of our deanery. In May we pray for the parish of St Luke's. Rev Gareth provides the following guidance:

We are thankful for

- ◆ People who came to faith in Jesus on the recent ALPHA course.
- ◆ New people who have joined the church (including families) and some past members returning.
- ◆ We are beginning to start-up mission ministries in the community for the elderly (Seniors) and for parents with young children (Cafe n Tots').
- ◆ The new people who are watching the online Youtube service on Sundays and midweek, and who are texting in or calling the Pastoral phone number asking for prayer by members of the church.
- ◆ New investment of equipment to facilitate ongoing online services.
- ◆ Agreement by the PCC to recruit and appoint for 2 new roles. A Church Administrator and a Children's and Families Pastor.
- ◆ A new vision "To be a church family who live for Jesus and love one another, leading to transformed lives and communities."

Prayer Requests

- ◆ The planned return to public worship on 23rd May (Pentecost).
- ◆ For our fruitfulness in evangelism and witness as we join in with the C of E, *Thy Kingdom Come* initiative.
- ◆ The right appointment of a Church administrator (20hrs) and a full-time Children's and Families Pastor over the next few months (advert's out in May).
- ◆ God's wisdom and discernment as we review the needs of the physical site, engage architect plans and make decisions on buildings use, as we plan for future mission and ministry in our community.
- ◆ Elections to the PCC at the APCM on 7th June.
- ◆ Ongoing wisdom of the Senior Leadership Team of the vicar and wardens as they lead St. Luke's in planning for growth and sharing the Gospel of Jesus in Maidstone and beyond.

Thank you so much for your support



DEANERY PRAYER

Please take a copy of the
monthly prayer focus and join
our prayers for the life of our
deanery.

The Late Revd Brian Barnes

Brian Barnes served in our parish for many years first as a Churchwarden and then as a Non Stipendiary Minister from 1982 until 1989. Brian became a Stipendiary priest in our parish and served as a Curate until 1992 when he moved to All Saints Staplehurst as Rector. In 2002 Brian moved to St. Leonard's Hythe as Vicar before retiring to Lincoln in 2008.

After a battle with cancer over several years, Brian died in March 2020. Una and their sons had hoped to have a memorial service for Brian but current circumstances have made this impractical. Una is organising memorial donations and writes the following:-

A length of time has passed since Brian died. Sadly our son Robin has died of COVID-19 and the disease itself is still skulking around. Consequently John Ian and I have decided not to have a memorial service for Brian. As friends of All Saints, St. Philip's and St. Stephen's you will have your own memories of him and what he meant to you. If you would like to make a small donation in his memory could you please give it to Lionel Marchant. Donations will be forwarded to his favourite charity "The Injured Jockeys Fund"

Thank you.

Una x

John

Ian

I will be pleased to accept your donations on behalf of Una. If you wish to donate by cheque please make the cheque payable to The Injured Jockeys Fund and send the cheque to me at the address shown below. Cash donation can be placed in an envelope addressed to me and placed in the collection plate at any service in All Saints or St. Philip's.

Thank you for your support of the Barnes family in this difficult time for them.

Lionel Marchant
7 The Platt
Sutton Valence
Maidstone
ME17 3BQ

Forthcoming Services for May

2nd May Joint Eucharist Service at 10.00am
All Saints church.

9th May Joint Eucharist Service at 10.00am
St Philips church

16th May Joint Eucharist Service at 10.00am
All Saints church.

23rd May Annual Parochial Church Meeting TBC

30th May Joint Eucharist Service at 10.00am
St Philips church